



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 9, 2004

FOR INFORMATION CALL
Lynne Weil (202) 225-6735

Lantos Says Proposed Mission to Mars is a Spacey Idea

In response to reports today that the Bush Administration plans to establish a base on the moon as a prelude to sending manned missions to Mars, Congressman Tom Lantos released the following statement:

"Given the astronomical deficits the Bush Administration is racking up already, it is truly spacey to suggest that we spend untold billions more on colonizing the Moon and Mars. The Administration may hope that Americans' enthusiasm for this idea will be fueled by the success of the current Mars rover mission, but new initiatives in research and development should be based in science, not messages from Planet Rove. This is no time to start spending on questionable ventures when the Administration is refusing to fully fund education, housing, and programs to assist the disabled and the elderly. This proposed ticket to Mars is one we cannot afford!"

###